## Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-6 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended)       ~~An~~ A biodegradable, oxidized cellulose ester according to claim 36 that is dried.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended)       ~~An~~ A biodegradable, oxidized cellulose ester according to claim 36 that is in a monolithic transparent film.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended)       ~~An~~ A biodegradable, oxidized cellulose ester according to claim 36 that is in a biodegradable coating.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended)       ~~An~~ A biodegradable, oxidized cellulose ester according to claim 36 that is present in a product selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutical formulation, an agricultural product, and a veterinary composition.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended)       ~~An~~ A biodegradable, oxidized cellulose ester according to claim 36 that is soluble in at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of water, ketones, esters, glycol ethers, glycol ether acetates, alcohols, methylene chloride, and halogenated solvents.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended)       ~~An~~ A biodegradable, oxidized cellulose ester according to claim 11 whereby the aprotic solvents are selected from the group consisting of DMSO, DMA, DMF, and n-methyl-2-pyrrolidone.

Claims 13-34 (Withdrawn)

Claim 35 (Currently Amended)       A pharmaceutical product containing the biodegradable, oxidized cellulose ester of claim ~~1~~ 36.

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Claim 36 (Currently Amended)    ~~An~~ A biodegradable, oxidized cellulose ester having the following general formula I or II:

I.
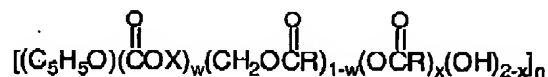
$$[(C_5H_5O)(\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}OX)_w(CH_2O\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}R)_{1-w}(O\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}R)_x(OH)_{2-x}]_n$$

wherein:

X is selected from the group consisting of H, Na, K, Ca, $NH_4$, and $NEt_3H$;
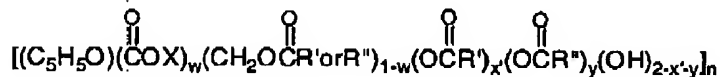
whereby R is $(CH_2)_nCOOH$, where n is 2 to 4;

w is 0.1-1.0;

x is 0.1-2.0; and

n is 30-1500.

and

II.

$$[(C_5H_5O)(\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}OX)_w(CH_2O\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}R'\,\text{or}\,R'')_{1-w}(O\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}R')_x(O\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}R'')_y(OH)_{2-x\text{-}y}]_n$$

wherein:

X is selected from the group consisting of H, Na, K, Ca, $NH_4$, and $NEt_3H$;

~~whereby R is (CH₂)ₙCOOH, where n is 2 to 4;~~

R' and R" are each selected from the group consisting of: H; $CF_3$; $(CH_2)_nCH_3$, where n is from 0 to 18; $(CH_2)_nCOOH$, where n is from 1 to 8; CY=CZCOOH, where Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, branched alkyl having

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from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and from one to three *cis* or *trans* double bonds; branched alkenyl having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and having from one to three *cis* or *trans* double bonds; CY-$CH_2$, where Y is H, methyl, or phenyl; CH=CHY, where Y is $C_6H_5$; CH=CYCOOH, where Y is H or $CH_3$; $(CH_2)_8CH=CH(CH_2)_8CH_3$; or $C_6H_{(2-6)}(COOH)_{0-4}$, $CH_2CH(COOH)CH_2$-COOH;

w is 0.1-1.0;

\* $\underline{x}'$ is 0.1-1.9;

y is 0.1-1.9; and

n is 30-850.

Claim 37 (Canceled)

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